

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 04951 211329Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
-----220328Z 043640 /62

R 211308Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7617
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 4951

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KE
SUBJ: KIKUYUS NOW ORGANIZING FOR KANU ELECTIONS

REF: 76 NAIROBI A-93

1. THE GIKUYU EMBU MERU ASSOCIATION (GEMA), WHICH IS A TRIBAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF KIKUYU, EMBU AND MERU TRIBESMEN, HELD TWO-DAY MEETING OUTSIDE NAIROBI APRIL 16 AND 17 TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO KANU ELECTIONS. THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCH MEETING TO BE HELD DESPITE FACT THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGAN LAST OCTOBER.

2. WHAT EXACTLY GEMA STRATEGY IS TO BE IS BEING HELD VERY CLOSELY, BUT IT IS CERTAIN GEMA WILL OPPOSE V.P. MOI AND IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT GEMA WILL ENDORSE EITHER FINANCE MINISTER KIBAKI OR DEFENSE MINISTER GICHURU FOR THE POST OF KANU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN IN INTEREST OF TRIBAL UNITY. A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE MEETING
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STATED THAT "GEMA CHAIRMAN (NJENGA KARUME) SHOULD CONVENE MEETINGS WITH GEMA AND KANU DISTRICT LEADERS REPRESENTING GEMA AREAS WITH A VIEW TO...ENSURING THAT ALL GEMA PEOPLE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON MATTERS LIKELY TO AFFECT GEMA PEOPLE."

3. SHOULD GEMA ENDORSE GICHIRI IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT

FOR KIBAKI, AS A LOYAL KIKUYU, TO CONTINUE WITH HIS CANDIDACY DESPITE HIS SUPPORT THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. HOWEVER, KIBAKI ATTENDED THIS GEMA MEETING AND TOOK PART. IF HE WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF IN MANNER CREDIBLE TO GEMA AS A LEADER PRIMARILY SERVING KIKUYU INTERESTS, AND NOT AS SUPPORTER OF VP MOI'S AMBITIONS, HE MAY WELL GET GEMA SUPPORT, INDEED, WHEN KIBAKI FIRST ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT HE (KIBAKI) HAD KARUME' SUPPORT.

4. COMMENT: THE GEMA MEETING IS AN INDICATION OF HOW ELECTION POSTPONEMENT HELPS ANTI-VP MOI GROUP. PARLIAMENTARY SOURCES ON BOTH SIDES OF ELECTION ISSUE HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT WHATEVER REASON FOR ORIGINAL POSTPONEMENT--AND ALMOST EVERYONE NOW AGREES IT WAS CAUSED BY STATE OF PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AT TIME--PRESIDENT WILL NOT NOW RESCHEDULE ELECTIONS UNTIL UNITY IS ESTABLISHED AMONG THE KIKUYUS.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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